

**616 Terrace Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019**

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

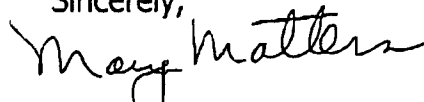
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am in support of the settlement that was reached in the Microsoft antitrust dispute. I personally believe that this suit never should have been brought in the first place. Microsoft is a great company that has done immeasurable good for this nation. Microsoft provided a usable system, which enabled more people to access computers and harness this new technology. I spend most of my workday at the computer using Microsoft's product, and I know that without the Windows operating system I would have serious difficulties fulfilling my job.

I think that the settlement is reasonable. The company will not be divided, and will be able to continue innovating and making strides in the IT sector. Under the terms of the settlement Microsoft will design future versions of Windows that are compatible with the products of its competitors. The company will not utilize any business tactics that may be considered retaliatory. Finally, the companies will be held accountable by a three-person technical committee that will monitor the future business practices of the company to ensure that they comply with the terms of the settlement.

I am pleased that we may finally be able to put this litigation behind us, and I hope that the states fall in line behind the federal government and settle. Thank you for all the work that you have done to protect American business and free enterprise, and for allowing me this opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,


Mary Mattern